



Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
 Welcome Center Hours 8 am-4:30 pm (Mon-Sat)
 30239 South State Route 53
 Wilmington, IL 60481
 Phone: 815-423-6370
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/midewin>

Midewin Meadowlark Messenger Sept-Oct 2011

Here's what the bird is bringin'

- ☆ [Calendar of Volunteer Workdays and Events for Aug-Oct](#)
- ☆ [Free Green Fire Screening at Mar Theatre in Wilmington](#)
- ☆ [National Public Lands Day, September 24, 2011](#)
- ☆ [Botany for Beginners Class off to a Good Start](#)
- ☆ [10,000 More Wildflowers Can Call Midewin Home](#)
- ☆ [Reminiscing with the Volunteer Staff This Summer](#)
 -corporate volunteer workday, vegetation monitors, Unitarian Universalist retreat and Mission Possible visit
- ☆ [The LEAF program's journey from New York to Midewin](#)

☆ Calendar of Workdays/ Events for Aug-Oct

Tours/presentations




Volunteer workdays

Training workshops

Special Events



Children are always welcome, but these are more appropriate activities

Date and Day	Time	Meeting Location	Activities
27 August Saturday 	9:00am – 2:30pm	River Road Seedbeds	Restoration Workday: Planting <i>Best for ages 7 and up</i>
27 August Saturday	10:00am – Noon	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Cemetery Tour: Starr's Grove and Chicago Road
1 September Thursday	8:00am - Noon	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Restoration Workday: Planting raised seedbeds
3 September Saturday	10:00am -1:30pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Ghosts of the Ammunition Plant (via school bus)
10 September Saturday	8:00am – 10:00am	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Birds East
10 September Saturday	8:30am – 10:30am	Gate at South Arsenal Rd & Chicago Rd	Midewin by Horseback Bring your own horse.
10 September Saturday 	9:00am - 2:30pm	River Road Seedbeds	National Day of Service: We'll be installing prairie plants at River Road, and collecting some early-ripening seeds.
10 September Saturday	10:15am – 11:45pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Woods and Wetland Walk; then join us at the workday after lunch in honor of National Day of Service!
10 September Saturday 	5:00pm – 7:00pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Bike by Twilight Bring your own bike.
13 September Tuesday	10:00am- 2:00pm	River Road Seedbeds	Mighty Acorns Training for Instructors: New Youth Group Instructors Needed

15 September Thursday	9:00am - 3:00pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Restoration Workday: Seed Harvest. Collecting seed from seed beds (morning) and wild populations (afternoon).
17 September Saturday	10:00am - Noon	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Cow Watching Program
17 September Saturday	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Cemetery Tour: Maple Hill and Klingler
24 September Saturday	9:00am - 2:30pm Half Day Optional	Midewin SO Welcome Center	National Public Lands Day: Call to pick a project
24 September Saturday	1:00pm – 3:00pm	River Road Trailhead	War Plants to Prairie Plants Tour
1 October Saturday	10:00pm – Noon	Gate at South Arsenal Rd & Chicago Rd	Midewin by Horseback Bring your own horse.
6 October Thursday	8:00am - Noon	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Restoration Workday: Invasive Control
8 October Saturday	9:00am – 2:30pm	River Road Seed Beds	Restoration Workday: Harvesting seed
8 October Saturday	10:00am -1:30pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Ghosts of the Ammunition Plant (via school bus)
13 October Thursday	9:00am – 3:00pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Restoration Workday: Collecting seed from seed beds (morning) and wild populations (afternoon).
15 October Saturday	1:00pm- 3:00pm	Mar Theatre, Wilmington	FREE Green Fire Screening: Aldo Leopold Documentary
22 October Saturday	9:00am – 2:30pm	River Road Seed Beds	Restoration Workday: Collecting seed from River Road seed beds.
22 October Saturday	5:00pm -7:00pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Cemetery at Dusk (Starr's Grove and Chicago Road)
29 October Saturday	5:00pm -8:00pm	Iron Bridge Trailhead	Musical Trick-or-Treat Bunker Style

Half days are optional for certain workdays, please call and ask.

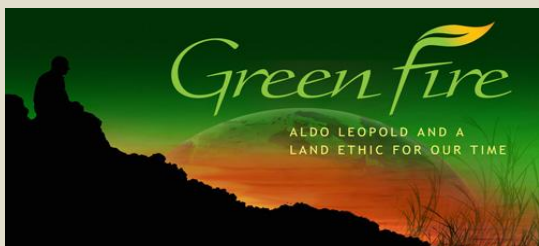
For more information about the events listed or **to RSVP** contact Gemma Guenther, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator at 815-423-2148 or gguenther@fs.fed.us.

Knowing how many volunteers or visitors will attend an event allows Midewin staff to better organize the event, and we can inform you of any changes or cancellations.

Midewin will provide tools, safety gear, and water. Please bring your own lunch. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied and supervised by a parent, guardian. Youth groups must come with chaperones. Please do not bring pets to workdays.

[Click for Directions:
Supervisors Office \(SO\)
and River Road Seedbeds](#)

☆ FREE Green Fire Screening at Mar Theatre in Wilmington



Save the Date for Saturday, October 15 from 1pm-3pm.
 “The first full-length documentary film ever made about legendary environmentalist Aldo Leopold, *Green Fire* highlights Leopold’s extraordinary career, tracing how he shaped and influenced the modern environmental movement.”

To RSVP contact midewin_rsvp@fs.fed.us

For more information about the movie, visit this site:

<http://www.greenfiremovie.com/>



National Public Lands Day

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

Saturday, September 24, 2011

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands that we all enjoy. Volunteers are invited to join the U.S. Forest Service and Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Alliance for a volunteer event at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.



How to join the fun

- ① *RSVP and pick a project*
- ② *Check in at 8:30am the morning of Sept 24 at Midewin's Welcome Center*
- ③ *Head out to worksite for 9am start. Work as late as 2:30pm. Optional tour of Midewin from 1-3pm.*

RSVP to Gemma
by September 19
to guarantee your

FREE LUNCH

815-423-2148

gguenther@fs.fed.us

Pitch in! "It's your land, lend a hand!"

☆ Botany for Beginners Class off to a good start

[Back to Top](#)


Botany for Beginners is for interested volunteers wanting to start learning local native plants. This is also our attempt to start recruiting and training additional vegetation monitors that survey the quality of our restorations each year. Botany classes are led by Eric Ulaszek, Midewin's horticulturist and take place a few times a year typically on Thursday evenings. Call for more details or to be put on the email list for additional botany classes.

☆ 10,000 More Wildflowers can Call Midewin Home



We Did It! Thanks to the help of over 100 volunteers and 3 days of pretty great weather, we planted 10,000 plants at the corner of the South Patrol Road Prairie and the Prairie Creek Woods Trail. Thanks also the Midewin Alliance for providing lots of coordination and for providing soda, tea, water, watermelon, and popsicles too! Please come and enjoy a hike along the trail, listen to the frogs in the restored wetland and watch this area grow strong and colorful.

[Back to Top](#)

☆ Reminiscing with the Volunteer Staff this Summer



On June 23, employees of corporate supporters of The Wetlands Initiative such as Waste Management and CenterPoint along with Midewin volunteers participated in the second annual corporate volunteer day at Midewin. Volunteers planted 4,500 plugs of native species at the Grant Creek Wetland Restoration Project.

Visit The Wetlands Initiative website for more photos at this link: [Photos](#)



A staff of 10 volunteers annually spend July and August monitoring three prairie restorations at Midewin in order to document the floristic quality compared to remnants. This program along with Plants of Concern is led by the Chicago Botanic Garden research assistant. So far, Midewin's restoration quality has increased every year and these results can be found in the annual monitoring and evaluation reports.



[Back to Top](#)

☆ Reminiscing continued....



Over 50 volunteers joined together from all over the United States and Canada for their annual Unitarian Universalist retreat. They spent the week at Camp Shaw-waw-nas-see and came to Midewin on Aug 5 to help plant over 2000 plugs and harvest seed. Thanks a bunch! We look forward to all your future visits.



Youth from several churches of Mission Possible made Midewin part of their volunteering sampler for the day, which included conservation, helping animals and the homeless too.



[Back to Top](#)

☆ The LEAF program's journey from New York to Midewin



The Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future (LEAF) program, coordinated by The Nature Conservancy brought inner city, New York high school students to Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie for a month to experience natural resource management and environmental education. The three interns and their mentor helped restore grasslands by removing invasive species, planting native species, harvesting seeds and monitoring water quality. They also learned life skills with their mentor such as managing a budget, cooking & cleaning for themselves. One of the interns learned how to ride a bike for the first time and all of them learned how to canoe and practiced swimming for the first time. This summer, The Nature Conservancy sent 72 kids to 19 nature preserves as part of the LEAF program, made possible by a \$3.1 million gift from the Toyota USA Foundation to expand the program. For more information visit

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/illinois/explore/leaf-in-illinois.xml>



Thanks for all the hard work this summer. I hope to see you soon at upcoming events. Please continue to check the progress on the [Volunteer Website](#)



[Back to Top](#)